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Fall 2013

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Public History Concentration

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Public History Newsletter

Department of History, Wright State University

UP, UP, AND AWAY: INTERNING AT THE AIR FORCE MUSEUM

Seth Marshall, a second-year in the Public History Program, interned at the National Museum of the United States Air Force this summer. Under the supervision of curator Melissa Shaw, Seth was able to work directly with museum staff on various projects. These included accessioning collections, refolding hundreds of maps, and even a conservation project. Senior Master Sergeant Johnny Reid's was one of the collections Seth worked to accession. Reid was on the special ops weather team which meant that he was a meteorologist with special operations training. He served from



Seth, '14 at the USAF Museum

1980 to 2011 alternating between the Air Force and the Army. Seth also worked to conserve and lessen corrosion on a 105mm Howitzer Shell of an AC-130. This will be on display next year

in the gunships exhibit in the Southeast Asia gallery. Finally, Seth was able to work on other various projects such as assessing the preservation status of the Holocaust exhibit which is

now fifteen years old with multiple staff members. He also had the experience of working with donors. Seth loved working at the Air Force Museum this summer, and he would recommend it to anyone who is looking for volunteering or internship experience. He said the staff made sure he experienced many different opportunities; also, working in a museum on an active air force base was another perk. Working in a place he has visited since he was child was by far his favorite part of the internship. "I enjoyed getting up in the morning and doing what I loved every day."

INTERVIEW WITH INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

We have two international students in the Public History program this year: Karis Raeburn from the UK and Bemba Diarra from Mali.

Q: Why did you decide to come to Wright State and what motivated you toward public history?

Karis: I was attracted to Wright State because of the quality of the program and the mix of archival and museum related classes. Wright State also has a great disability unit. I have dyslexia, so this was an important concern.

Bemba: I decided to come to Wright State University after talking to Margaret Zakri (public history grad 2012). Additionally I wanted to stay in the mid-west, so finding a school in the mid-west with a public history program was perfect. I want to acquire the experience and skills necessary to save the history and culture of my country (Mali). (con't p. 3)



Karis Raeburn, '14 and Bemba Diarra, '15

A DAY IN THE LIFE... of Natalie Fritz

My name is Natalie Fritz and I am the Curatorial Assistant at the Clark County Historical Society. I started as an intern in 2006 while a student in Wright State's Public History program and have been part of the curatorial staff since 2007. As an intern I had wanted to learn a little bit of everything and my favorite thing about my job is that with our small staff, I am still able to DO a little bit of everything on any given day. I love having the opportunity to do many different things on any given day, but most of all, I am so grateful for a job that has allowed me the flexibility to raise my two children as future museum interns. I am able to bring my son in on Tuesdays when the library is closed to the public and



my daughter worked with me for three years before that! It's difficult to describe my typical working day because my daily activities are determined on an as-needed basis. I may be processing collections, cleaning artifacts, setting up exhibits and writing text, working on grants, help-

ing researchers, answering phones, solving historical mysteries, writing online posts, making event flyers, or putting together the newsletter... not necessarily all at once, but sometimes it happens! Typically I spend my days in the library and archives, assisting researchers, fielding outside requests, and

designating projects to volunteers. Often between assisting researchers and overseeing volunteers, I have very little time for my own list of projects each day. Luckily, I've become comfortable with the idea of working with two project lists: a "must do now" and a "whenever there is time." One of my main priorities has been to make the historical society and its collections more accessible despite budgetary, staff, and time limitations. I do my best to keep our website updated with newly created finding aids, indexes, and inventories, and to share our history through social media. I am very thankful to have a job with wonderful colleagues and lots of opportunities to hone an array of skills; it really gives me a chance to put into practice a lot of what I took away from the Public History program!

Note From the Director: Dawne Dewey



Public History at Wright State is international! You read about our international students, Karis and Bemba on page 1. I had the privilege of traveling to China in October to learn more about public history education there. I was part of a WSU international cultural heritage exchange trip to the Terra Cotta Warrior Museum in Xi'an. I visited museums, archives, and historic

sites. I also visited WSU alumna, Stacy Gould, at the University of Hong Kong, where she is University Archivist. Our goal is to establish internships abroad for our students and recruit international students to study here. Opportunities abound for our students to learn about public history in an international environment at home and abroad.

Dawne

ALUMNI NEWS

Tanya Zanish-Belcher (1990), director of Special Collections and Archives at Wake Forest University, edited (with Anke Voss) *Perspectives on Women's Archives*, published by the Society of American Archivists in 2013. The work is available in hard copy form, as an e-book, or as a pdf on the SAA website: <http://saa.archivists.org/store/perspectives-on-womens-archives/3334/>. In *Perspectives on Women's Archives*, eighteen essays written by noted archivists and historians illustrate the origins of a women-centered history, the urgent need to locate records that highlight the diverse experiences of women, and the effort to document women's experiences. The essays also expose the need for renewed collaboration between archivists and

historians, the challenges related to the accessibility of women's collections, and the development of community archives.

Rachael Bussert (2010) successfully completed the Certified Archivist Exam in August. She will be presenting in the Midwest Archives Conference session, "The Improvisations of Processing: Confronting the Unforeseen in Large Processing Projects" in April 2014.

Adam Greaser (2013) and Noel Rihm (2013) were married on December 7, 2013 at Fort Piqua Plaza in Piqua, OH.

Jeremy Feador (2010) was featured in an interview on the NPR *Marketplace Morning Report* in October about his job search.

Judith A. Wiener (2001) was recently tenured and promoted to an associate professor at The Ohio State University. She is the Assistant Director for Collections and Outreach at The Ohio State University Health Sciences Library and is the president of the Society of Ohio Archivists.

"I am very thankful to have a job with wonderful colleagues and lots of opportunities to hone an array of skills; it really gives me a chance to put into practice a lot of what I took away from the Public History program!" - Natalie Fritz

Interview with International Students, con't.

Q: Describe some of your work or schooling background.

K: I have a BA in History with Theology and Religious Studies from York St John University and a MLitt in Medieval History from the University of Aberdeen. I have worked for English Heritage, at Eltham Palace in London and for Historic Royal Palaces at The Tower of London.

B: Prior to Wright State University I went to Earlham College, which is a small liberal arts college in Richmond, Indiana. My major was in Business Management and Non-Profit with a minor in history. During summer 2011, I volunteered for a month in the Earlham archive.

Q: Would you recommend WSU's public history program to other international students?

K: YES! This program is great, I have learned so much, and it is all practically applicable. My internships proved that the skills I have learned here are genuinely useful and have prepared me for working in the Public History field.

B: I would recommend WSU and its Public history program to international students. WSU is a welcoming community, when there is a problem you can just ask people around and everybody is willing to help.

Q: What is the best class/project you've worked on in the program so far?

K: I loved the archival preservation class! We learned so much about how to look after all different kinds of archival material and did a practical lab every week.

B: I liked the hands-on activities, museum visits, and networking activities.

Q: What are your future plans?

K: I hope to work as an archivist for a fashion house, publishing company or university, however I would be happy to work in any kind of archive.

B: After finishing this program I'm going to try to get a job in either the museum or archival field in America in order to get more real world experience. I want to work here for couple of years before heading home to Mali to try to help implement public history programs in our education system.



<http://www.wright.edu/cola/Dept/hst/pubhst/index.html>

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Doing Public History the
"Wright" Way since 1974.

The mission of the Public History program at Wright State University is to prepare professionals who are well-grounded in knowledge of historical content, professional training, and hands-on experience.

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Director, Public History Program

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Chair, History Department

Dr. Kathryn Meyer
Director, History Graduate Programs

Sarah Aisenbrey
Public History Graduate Assistant, Newsletter Editor

WELCOME NEW STUDENTS!

Adam Becker—Ohio State University
Jordan Countryman—Cedarville University
Kaitlyn Crabtree—Ohio State University
Bemba Diarra—Earlham College
Georgia Fenton—Wright State University
Sara Fisher—Ohio University
Susanne Lange—Wright State University
Evan Mason—Wright State University
Leigh McCormick—Ohio State University
Michael Moss—Wright State University
Jessica Sells—Denison University
Joshua Wieser—Wright State University

CONGRATS DECEMBER GRADS!

Paul Ciarabvollo
Taylor Hoffman
Casey Huegel
Heather Miller
Susan Richardson